(c) There is no proposal in the Ministry of Tourism to accord industry status to the tourism sector. The data on revenue earned by Government through service tax in tourism sector is not maintained separately by Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).

Task Force to promote Health Tourism

3533. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry, along with the Ministry of Health or Family Welfare, set up a Task Force to promote health tourism in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Task Force submitted its recommendations to Government; and

(c) what action plan does his Ministry has to promote and publicise health tourism through its India tourism offices located in various parts of the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tourism along with Ministry of Family Welfare have set up a Task Force with a view to promoting India as a Health Destination for persons across the world so as to gainfully utilize the health-care expertise and infrastructure available in the country. It has been decided to promote India aggressively as a Health Destination in close coordination and collaboration with the public sector tour operators.

(c) Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has published a brochure and CD-Rom titled "Body, Mind and Soul" giving information on ancient and proven healing techniques like Ayurveda, Yoga, Panchkarma, Rejuvenation, etc. in various States of India. This publicity material on the traditional and natural medicines is being distributed by India tourism Offices in India and overseas to promote Health Tourism.

Potential of Cruise Tourism

3534. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is **a** fact that there is a great potential for cruise tourism in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have constituted a Committee to make India an attractive cruise tourist destination;

(c) what are the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(d) the details of ports identified for this purpose in the eastern parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.A High Power Steering Group has been constituted to formulate Cruise Shipping Policy for the country.

(c) The recommendations of this Steering Group include formation of Working Groups to look into issues like - Immigration; Customs Clearances; Quarantine Restrictions; Identification of Ports; Infrastructural Facilities; Connectivity; Taxation Issues; Tourism Related Issue and Cabotage to develop cruise shipping policy for India.

(d) A Working Group has been cosntituted by Department of Shipping for identification of Ports having cruise tourism potential along with East and West Coast of India.

FDI inflow into tourism sector

3535. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tourism industry has been declared as priority sector by Government for FDI flow into this sector;

(b) if so, when the industry was declared as priority sector by Government;

(c) the number of projects, after declaring tourism as priority sector, sanctioned by Government; and

(d) the total amount of FDI flown into this sector since declaration of this sector as priority sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) Government of India has identified Tourism as a high priority Industry for Investment. With a view to encouraging international entrepreneurs for investment, foreign direct investment (FDI) up to 100 per cent is permitted in the Hotel and Tourism sector under Automatic Approval Route.